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C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000112

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAL](#) [IR](#) [UP](#) [MD](#) [SU](#) [CG](#) [SR](#) [BK](#) [SI](#)

SUBJECT: SLOVENIA ON FEBRUARY 21 GAERC

REF: SECSTATE 25111

Classified By: COM Thomas B. Robertson Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1.(C) Summary. Polecon Chief met with Mary Veronika Tovsak of the Department for European Integration on February 16 and discussed reftel points. Of the items raised, Tovsak was most engaged on the topics of the Western Balkans, European Neighborhood policy, and the Sudan, where Tovsak said Slovenia supported use of the ICC rather than ICTR for trying war criminals. On February 15, during a lunch hosted by DCM, Tovsak and her boss, Ambassador Marija Adanja, Director of the Department for European Integration, expressed cautious support for an EU presence in Baghdad. End Summary.

12. (C) BOSNIA/CROATIA: As we have seen in our GAERC discussions, the Balkans is an area where Slovenia has been able to define its interests. Tovsek expressed the GOS' strong support for HR Ashdown's work and the critical importance for cooperation with ICTY across the region. Acknowledging that Croatia's proven cooperation was important and the International Community (IC) had to be consistent, she seemed concerned that this would be the only and unavoidable obstacle to starting Croatia's EU accession talks.

13. (C) KOSOVO: We have seen FM Rupel's engagement increase significantly on Kosovo both bilaterally and as CiO of the OSCE. According to Tovsak, FM Rupel is likely to speak on this topic at the February 21 GAERC. She said the GOS agreed it was important to encourage the Kosovars to implement "standards" but the IC must start discussion of future "status." Keeping in mind that certain principles are non-negotiable, i.e. respect for minorities, maintenance of borders etc. Postponing discussion of status, however, could provoke radical elements which would be very destabilizing. Tovsak said Rupel would be using his role as CiO to try to find a way to bring Serbs in Belgrade and in Kosovo, constructively, into the dialogue. She also stressed this as an area of important trans-Atlantic cooperation, citing U.S. pressure on the Serbs as crucial. (Note. Tovsak suggested Kosovo would be a topic Rupel would want to raise with Secretary Rice in a future, as-yet-undetermined, meeting. End

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Note)

4.(C) SERBIA and MONTENEGRO: Tovsak said it was important to get Serbia and Montenegro to cooperate fully with the ICTY and she thought the EU might need to think of incentives such as speeding up the feasibility study for the Stabilization and Assistance program. Despite the complexity of this issue, Tovsak reiterated Slovenia's strong belief that resolution of war crimes issues was crucial for regional reconciliation.

15. (C) EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD/UKRAINE: Tovsak said the GOS is on board with current EU plans of engagement with Ukraine. She added that when the time came, Slovenia would also support Ukraine's accession to the EU - but this was in the distant future. She hoped Ukraine would see the current Action Plan as an "upgrade" in relations and that it would understand the need to make reforms before jumping to discussion of EU membership. She thought that in a year they could upgrade to an "enhanced" agreement. Acknowledging that the new leadership in Ukraine needed something concrete to show the voters, Tovsak hoped that Ukraine would have realistic expectations and would not promise the public more than the EU was able to give at this time. She said it was important for Ukraine to understand it did not need to choose between Russia and the EU especially since it has historical links and market with Russia and CIS counties. Tovsak also said that Ukraine needed to be involved constructively in solving the Trans Nistrian problem.

16. (SBU) MOLDOVA: According to Tovsak, the EU is discussing the terms for an EU special representative to Moldova who would be in place after March elections, a move which Slovenia supports.

17. (SBU) ICC/ICTR: Slovenia supports the use of the ICC for trying war criminals from Sudan. She suggested that the ICTR was created prior to the existence of the ICC, but now that the ICC existed, this is where these trials belong.

18. (C) EU PRESENCE IN BAGHDAD: In a lunch hosted by DCM on February 15, Director of the Department for European Integration, Ambassador Marija Adanja, said that in principle, the EU was aware it needed to establish representation in Baghdad. Adanja couched her support for this plan in the

need for greater security first.

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